

# Designing and Validating Ternary Pd Alloys for Optimum Sulfur/Carbon Resistance (Pre-Combustion Capture)



2011 NETL CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Technology Meeting  
Pittsburgh, PA

Scott D. Hopkins  
Pall, Technical Director  
August 22-26, 2011

1. Introduction to Pall Corporation ([www.pall.com](http://www.pall.com))
2. Project Overview
3. Technology Fundamentals
4. Progress and Current Status
5. Plans for Development and Commercialization

- **Annual sales of +US \$ 2.5 Billion**
- **78 Locations in 34 Countries**
- **Approximately 10, 000 Employees**
- **Traded on the NYSE (PLL)**

## Market Segments

### Pall Life Sciences

Medical  
Biopharm

### Pall Industrial

Aerospace & Transportation  
Food & Beverage  
Fuels & Chemicals  
Industrial Manufacturing  
Materials  
Microelectronics  
Power Generation  
Water



## Offices and Plants





# Project Overview

## Funding:

- \$1,517,000 total
- \$1,207,000 (NETL)
- \$310,000 (Pall)

## Performance:

- Oct 1, 2009 to Sept 31, 2012

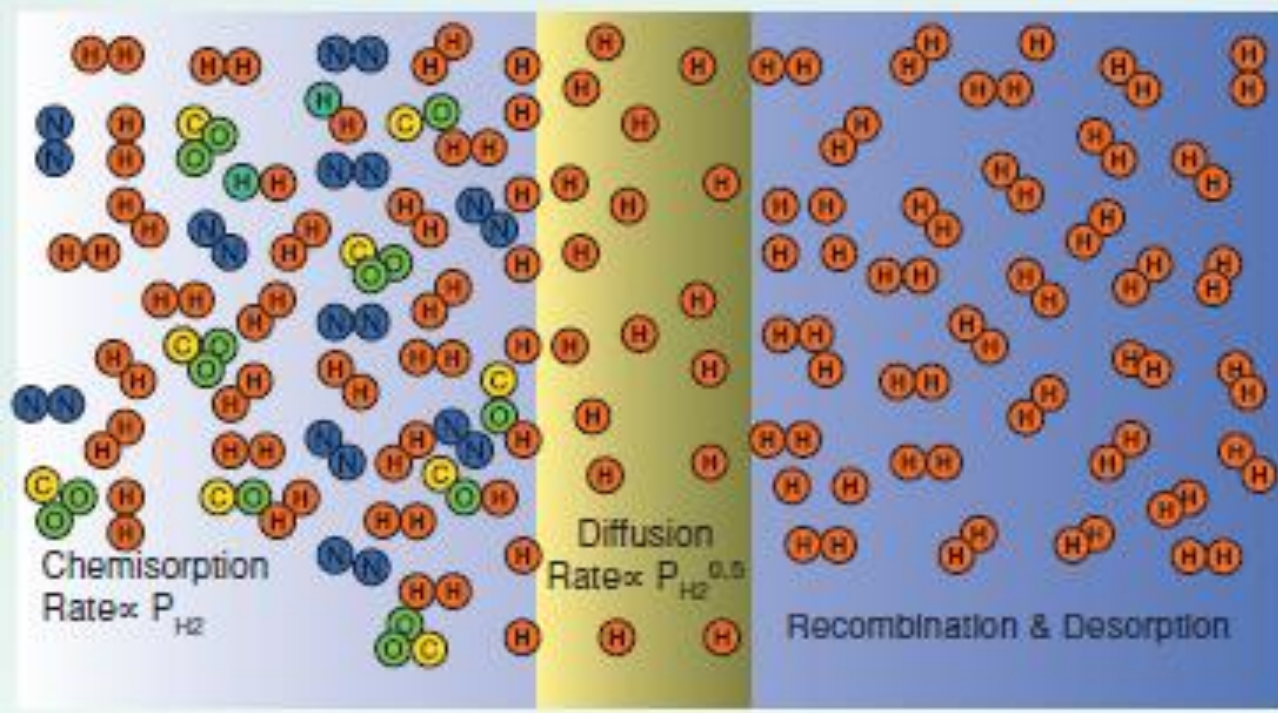
## Participants:

- Pall Corporation
- Cornell University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Southern Company

## Objectives:

- Develop an economic, high temperature and pressure, hydrogen separation membrane system for CO<sub>2</sub> capture that resists moderate levels of contaminants, typical in gasified coal.
- Create an advanced palladium alloy for optimum hydrogen separation performance using combinatorial material methods for high-throughput screening, testing, and characterization.
- Demonstrate durability by long term testing of a pilot membrane module at a commercial coal gasification facility.
- Understand long term effects of the coal gasifier environment on the metallurgy of the membrane components.

# Why Pd Membranes

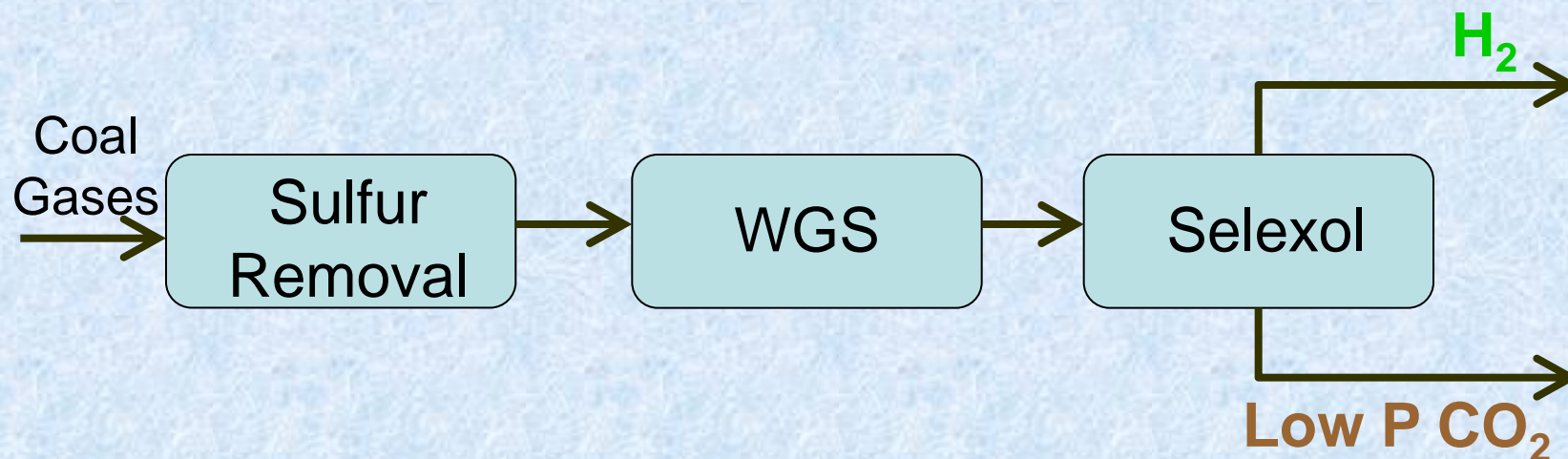


Offer very high selectivity for hydrogen over other gases present in feed stream

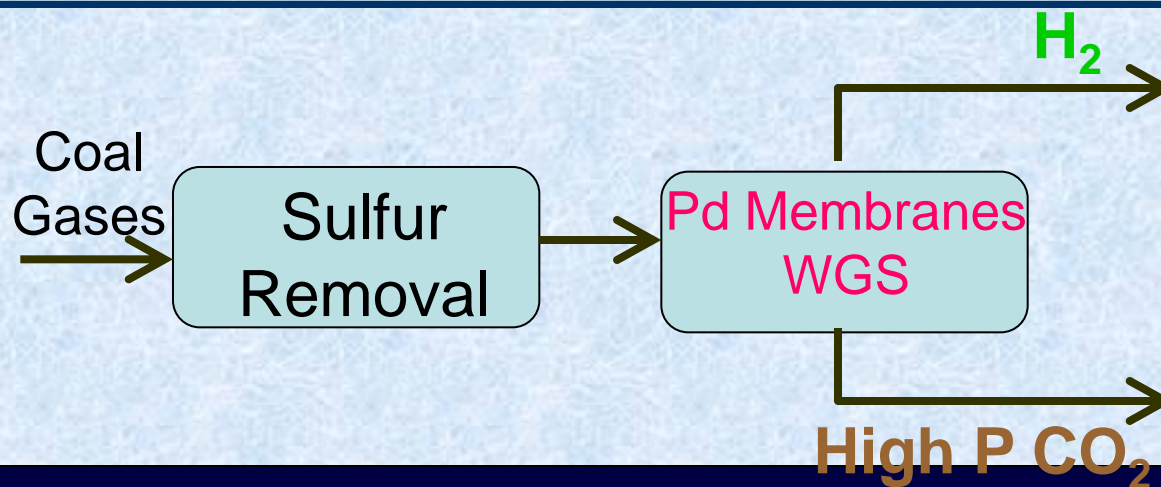
Transport is based on pressure – driving hydrogen atom diffusion through the interstitials of metal lattice

Pd alloys are durable

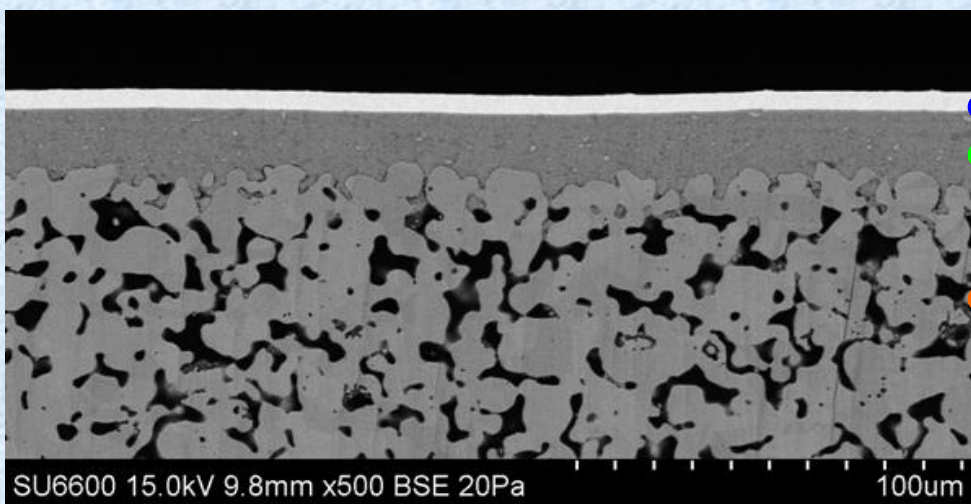
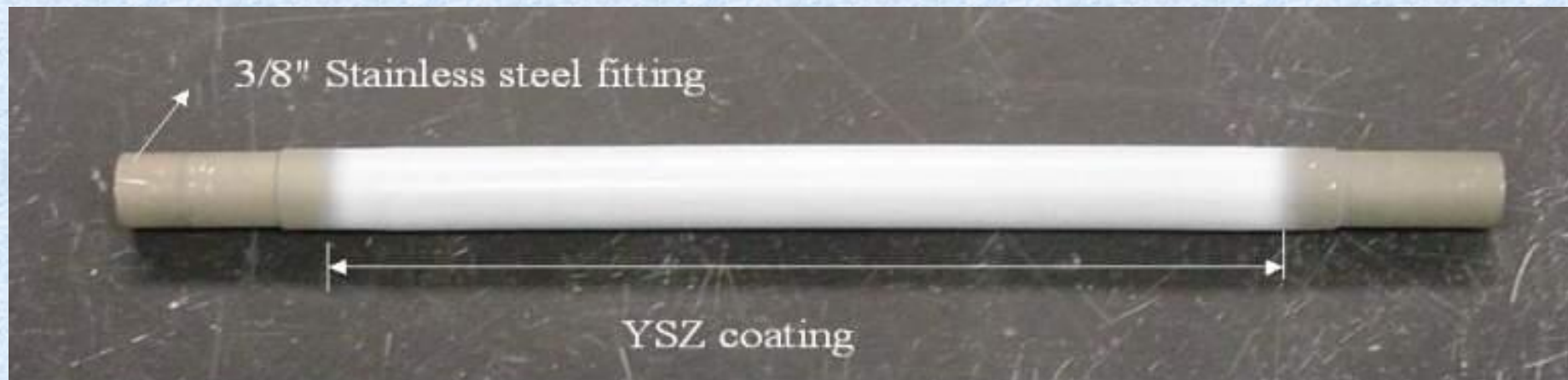
## CO<sub>2</sub> Capture by the Conventional Technology



## CO<sub>2</sub> Capture by Pd Membrane Reactor







Pd/Alloy Thin Film

Ceramic Coating

Porous Stainless Steel

Pall's palladium alloy membrane system will include:

- Pd alloy thin film
- Porous 310 stainless steel support tube; solid end fittings
- Nanoporous yttria-stabilized zirconia (YSZ) substrate
- Directly welded to tube sheet without need for sealing
- Uniform thermal expansion of housing and module.

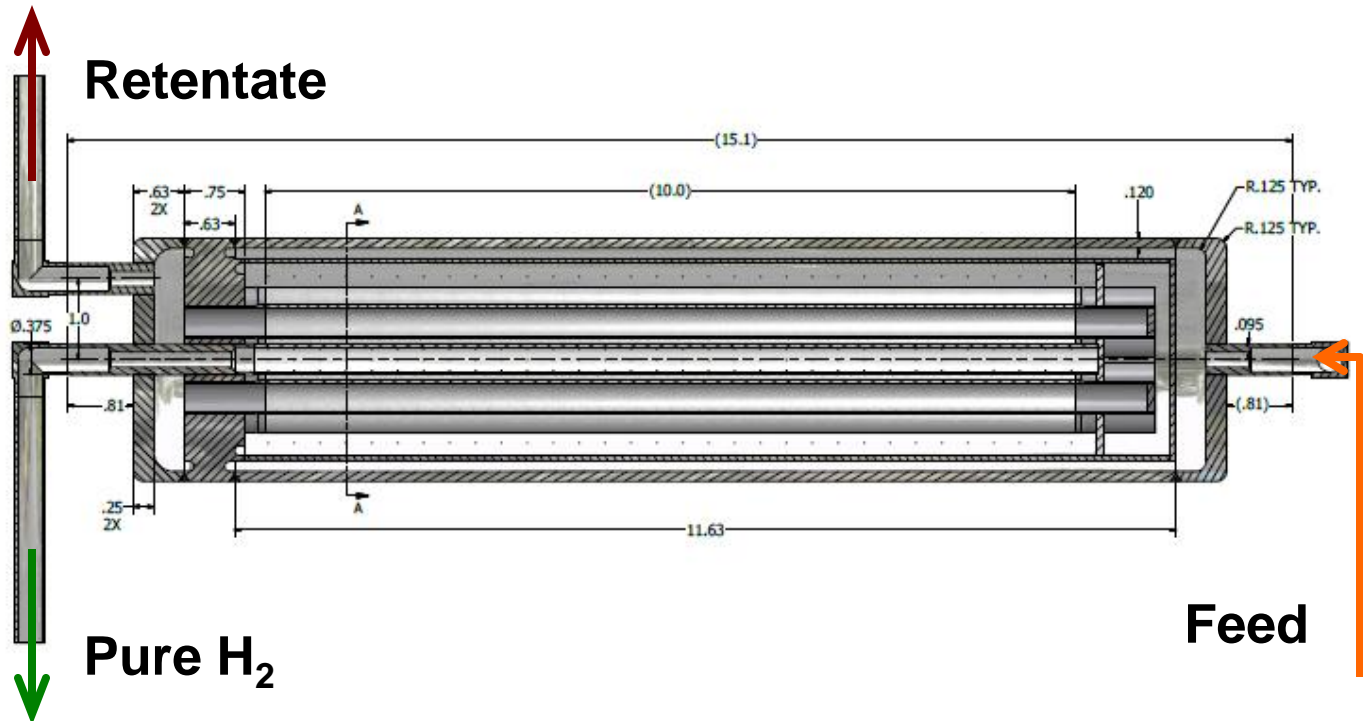
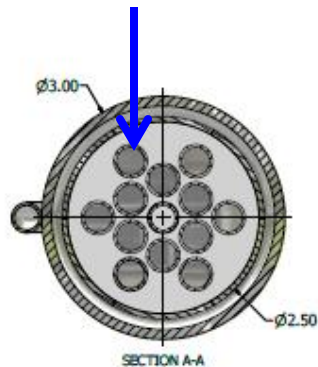




## A Small Size Module

- Twelve 12-inch membrane tubes
- Membrane area 140 inch<sup>2</sup> (900 cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Pure H<sub>2</sub> flux 70 SLPM under typical conditions

**Membrane Element**

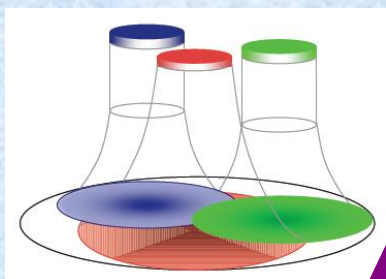


- Any alloy composition can be fabricated
  - Membrane elements can be assembled by conventional welding
  - CO<sub>2</sub> is produced at a higher pressure
  - The hydrogen product is high purity product H<sub>2</sub>
  - Hydrogen is produced at higher temperature
  - Lower parasitic loading, for instance CO<sub>2</sub> compressing
- 
- Lack of ternary phase diagrams for selecting potential S/C resistant alloys
  - Membranes must remain defect-free for years
  - Long-term microstructural changes are unknown
  - Long term H<sub>2</sub> flux and separation data are unknown

Note (2) missing quarters due to contract negotiations

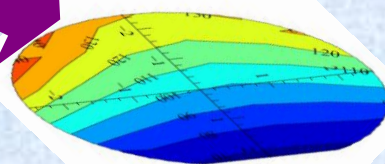
[illegible]



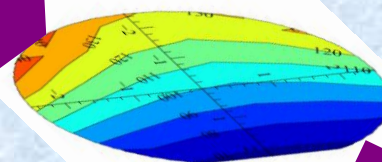


**Compositional  
Spreads**

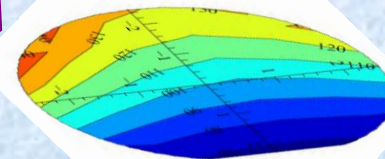
**Exposure to  
Coal Gas**

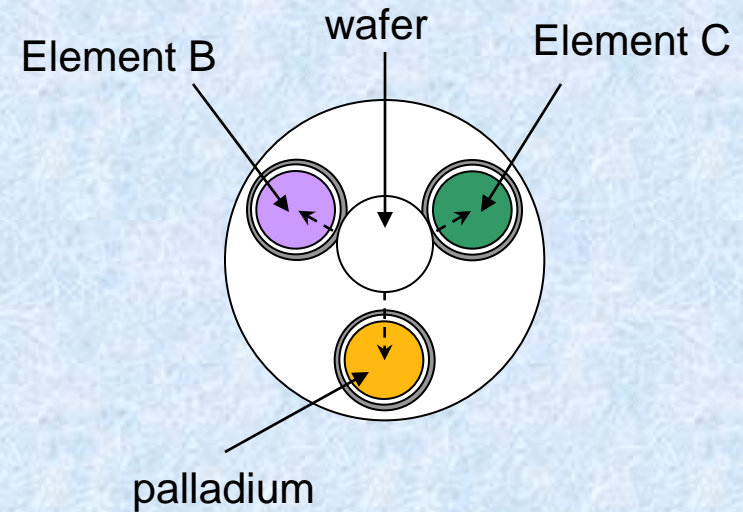
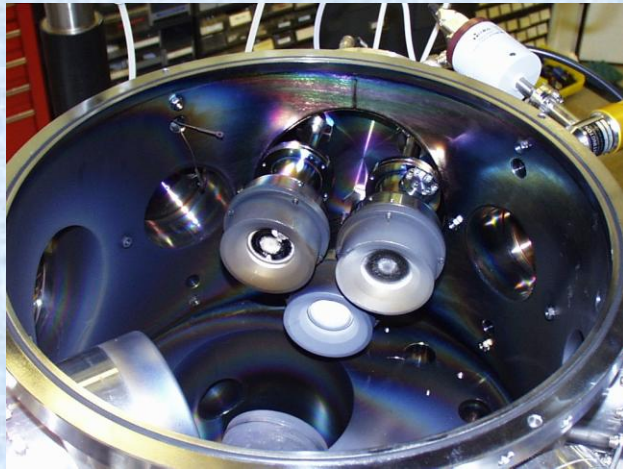
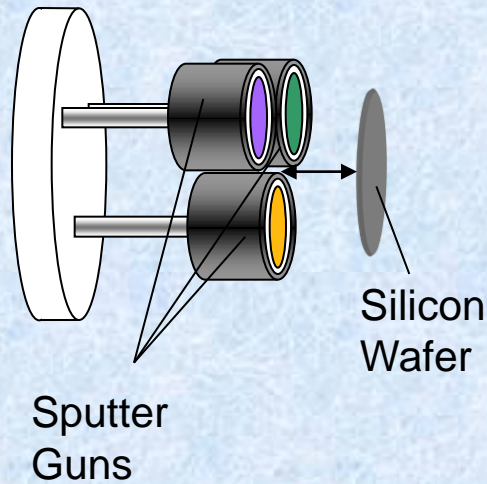


**Visual  
High-Throughput  
Screening**



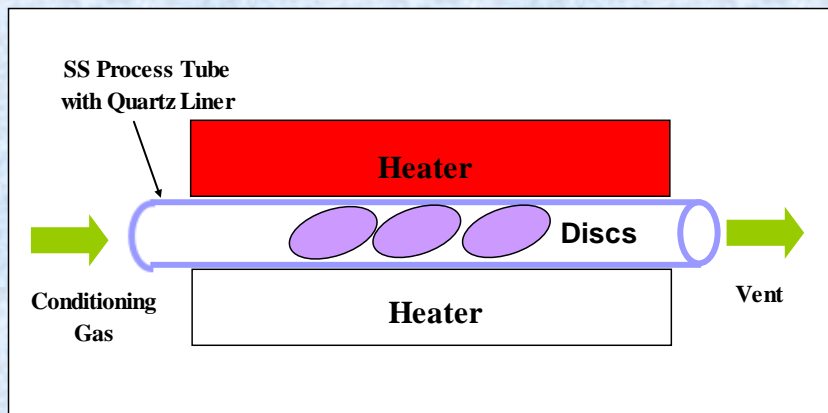
**Raman Mapping  
“Sweet” Spots**





A continuous spread of ternary alloys are synthesized at once into a single thin film

Quick, high throughput



- A setup was built to expose composition spreads to typical coal gas conditions
- H<sub>2</sub> 17.6%, CO<sub>2</sub> 17.9%, CO 2.6%, H<sub>2</sub>O 2.6%, N<sub>2</sub> 59.3%, and H<sub>2</sub>S 169 ppm
- 350°C for 24 hrs at 1 atm
- Visually examine if any spots across composition spread film still appear metallic and shiny

▪ Volume Percent





## Equipment

- DXR Confocal Raman Microscope
- Objectives x10, 20, 30, 50, 100

## Specifications

- Dispersive Raman microscopy
- Excitation sources 532 or 780 nm
- Scan range 50 - 3400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- CCD detector
- Spectral resolution 2.4 - 4.1  $\text{cm}^{-1}$
- Spatial resolution ~1 micron
- Motorized mapping stage

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**Task 3.0** Design and modeling of binary and ternary palladium alloys for use as high temperature, high pressure gas separation membranes under coal gasifier conditions.

Dec 1, 2009 to  
Sept 30, 2010

Extended due  
to contract  
negotiations

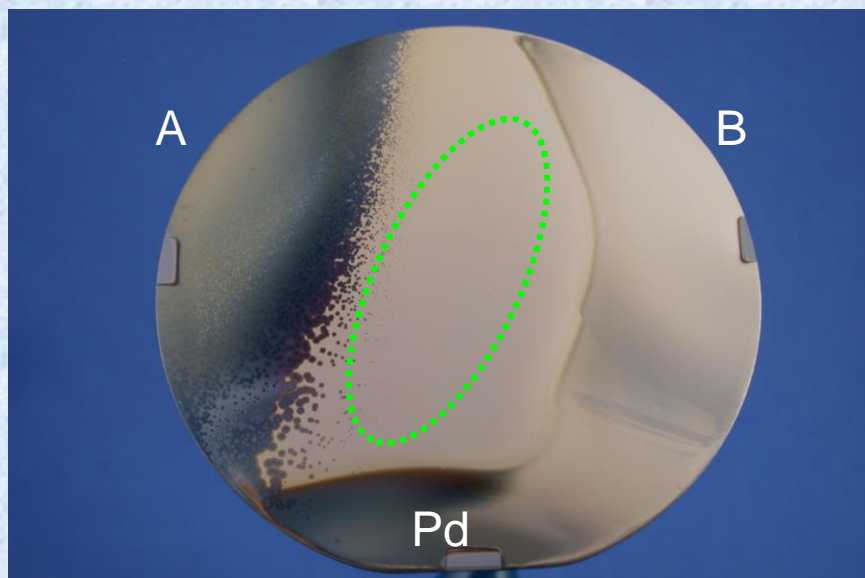
- Baseline testing of Pd-Au membranes to determine the effects of coal gas components and impurities;
  - Advanced palladium alloy development using combinatorial techniques to identify potential Pd alloys resistant to coal gas environment;
  - Model hydrogen permeation of candidate palladium alloys using DFT theory.
-

- Five Pd-Au-X composition spreads
- Two Pd-Ag-X composition spreads
- Two Pd-Cu-X composition spreads

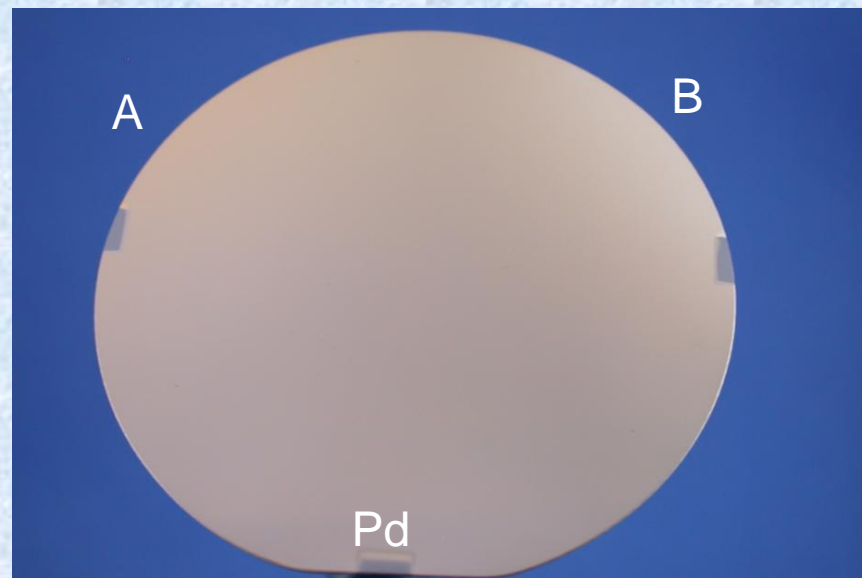


# Visual Screening Example 1

**Spread Pd-A-B: Coal Gas Exposure**



**Spread Pd-A-B: No Exposure**

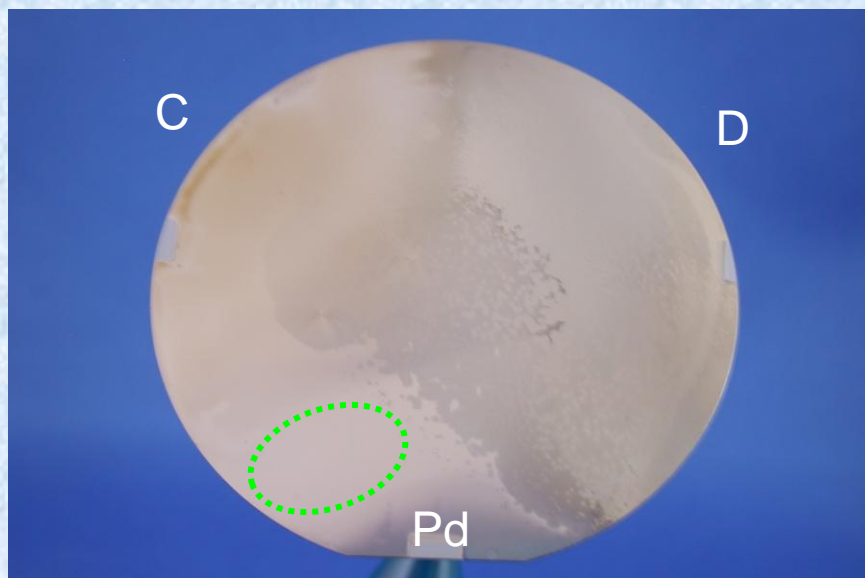


Balanced range A and B

Low to high level of Pd

# Visual Screening Example 2

**Spread Pd-C-D: Coal Gas Exposure**



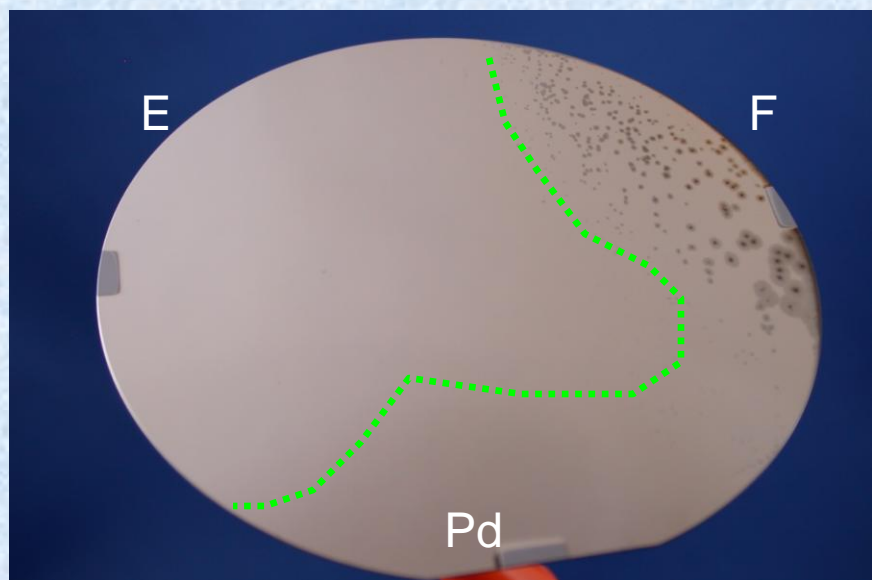
**Spread Pd-C-D: No Exposure**



Small range of unaffected surface  
Demonstrated hydrogen permeability

# Visual Screening Example 3

**Spread Pd-E-F: Coal Gas Exposure**



**Spread Pd-E-F: No Exposure**

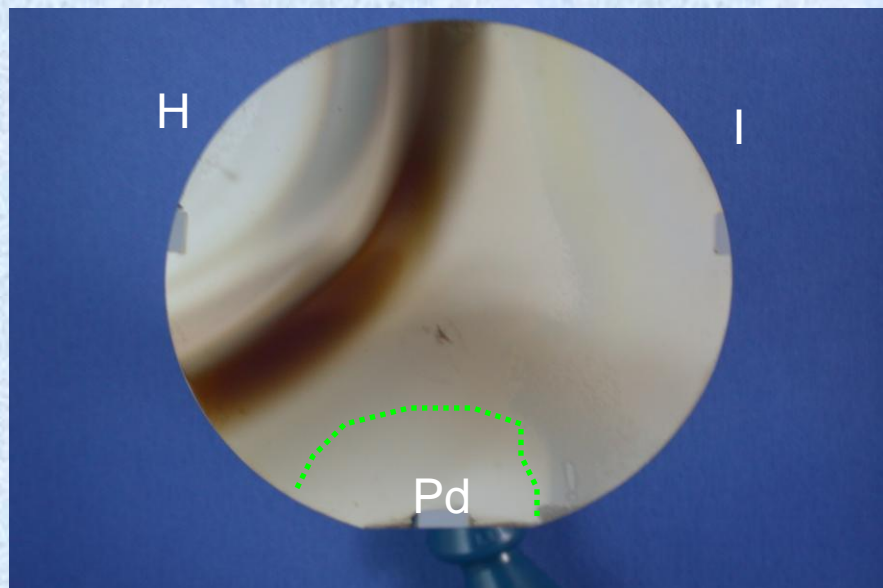


E-rich Pd alloys



# Visual Screening Example 4

**Spread Pd-H-I: Coal Gas Exposure**



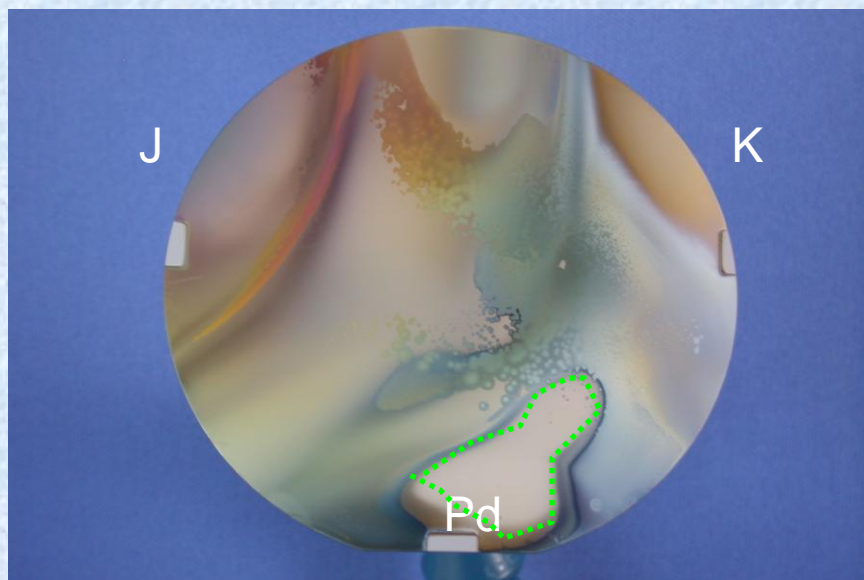
**Spread Pd-H-I: No Exposure**



H and I – promoted Pd – rich alloys

# Visual Screening Example 5

**Spread Pd-J-K: Coal Gas Exposure**



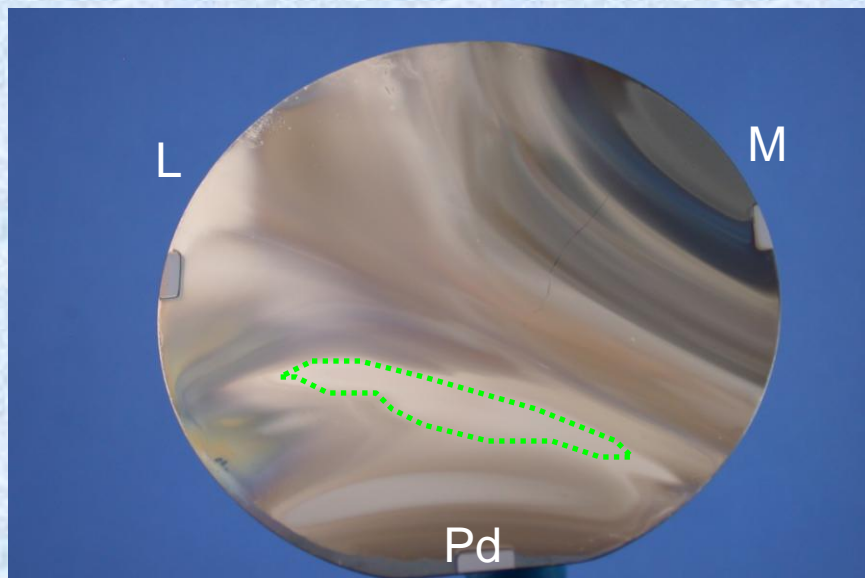
**Spread Pd-J-K: No Exposure**



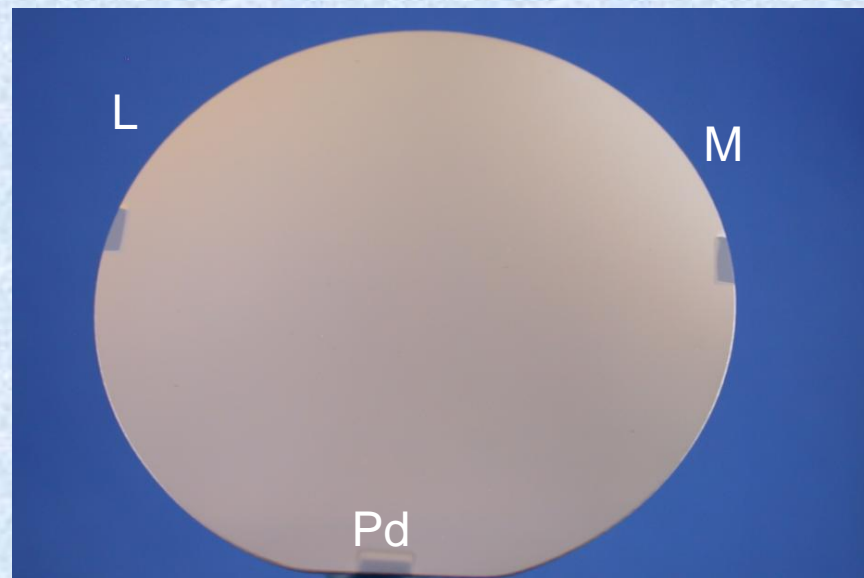
A small un-affected area of Pd rich alloys

# Visual Screening Example 6

**Spread Pd-L-M: Coal Gas Exposure**



**Spread Pd-L-M: No Exposure**

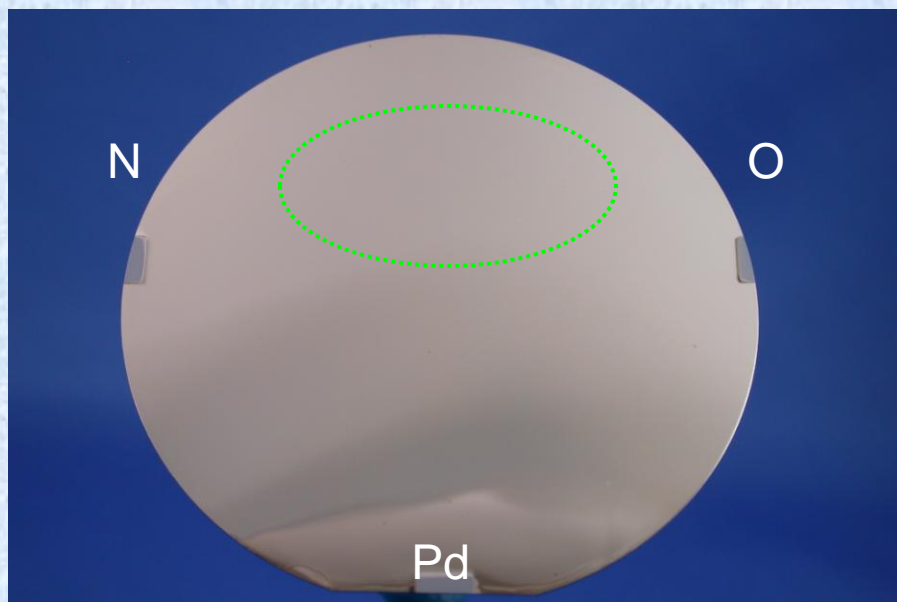


Narrow compositional range  
Higher Pd level

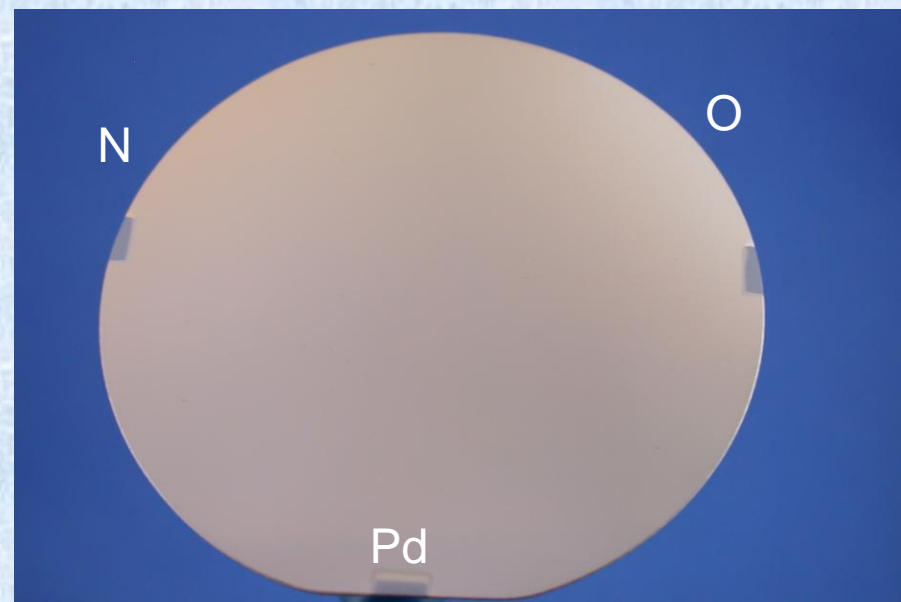


# Visual Screening Example 7

**Spread Pd-N-O: Coal Gas Exposure**



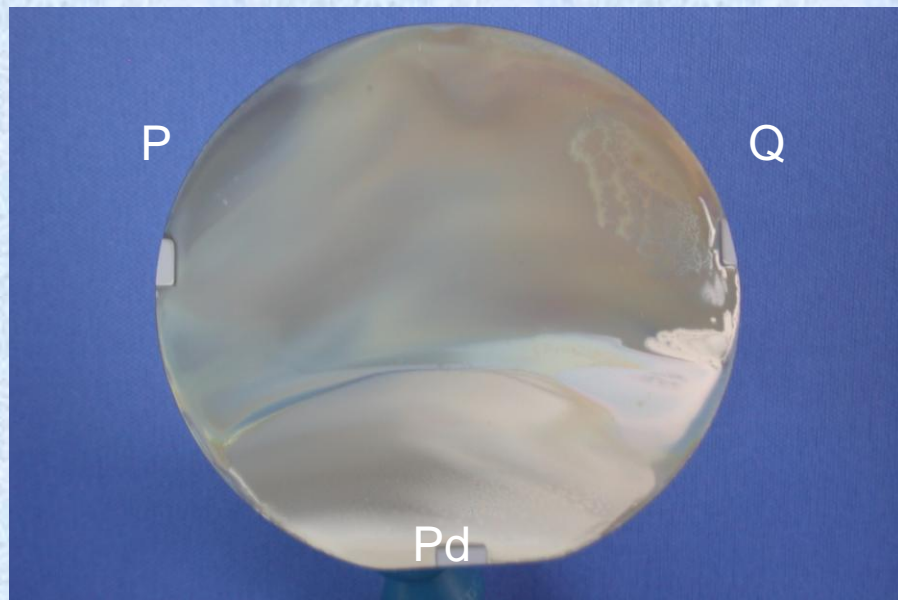
**Spread Pd-N-O: No Exposure**



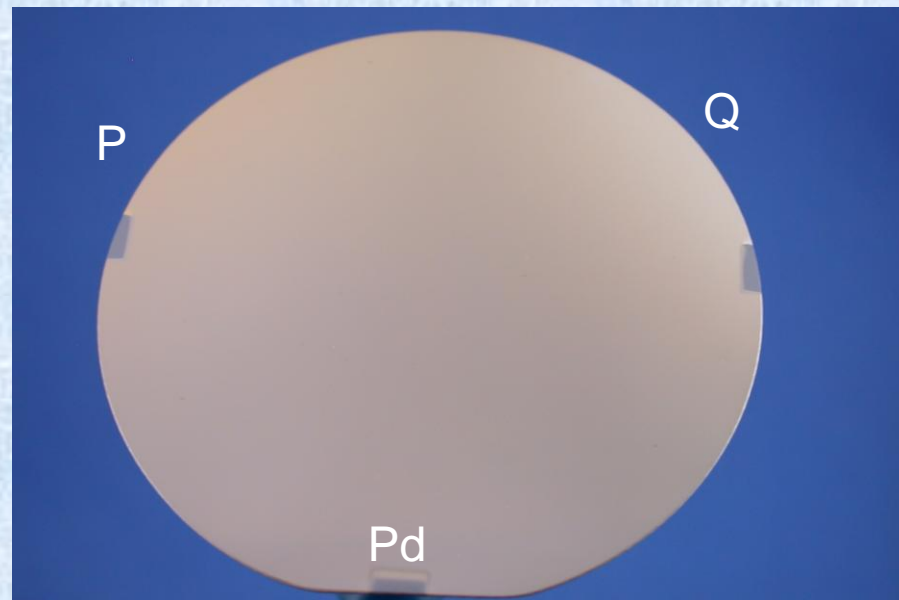
Un-affected low Pd level alloys

# Visual Screening Example 8

**Spread Pd-P-Q: Coal Gas Exposure**



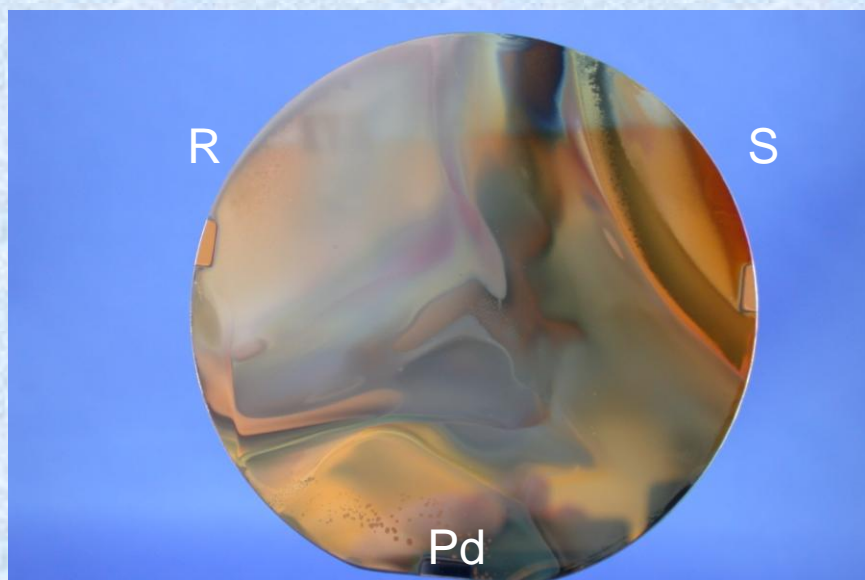
**Spread Pd-P-Q: No Exposure**



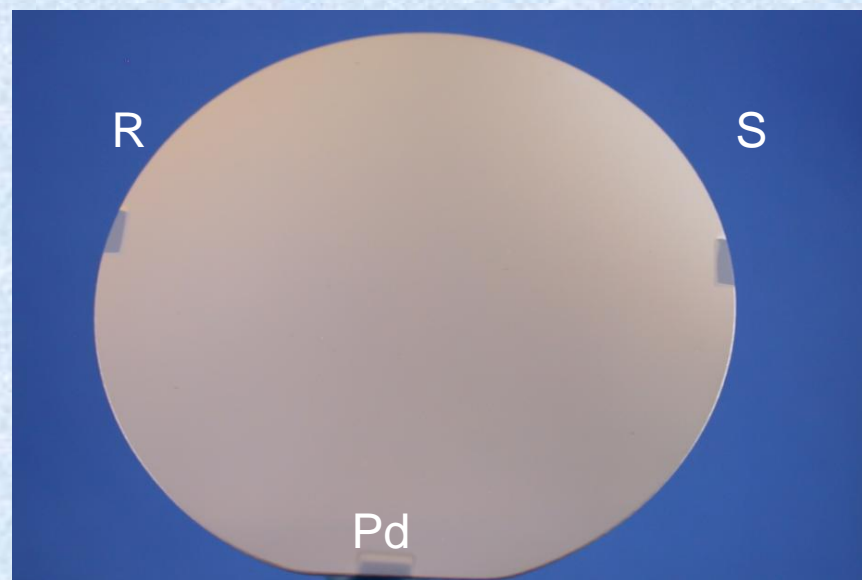
Entire surface affected by coal gas  
No shiny area visible

# Visual Screening Example 9

**Spread Pd-R-S: Coal Gas Exposure**



**Spread Pd-R-S: No Exposure**

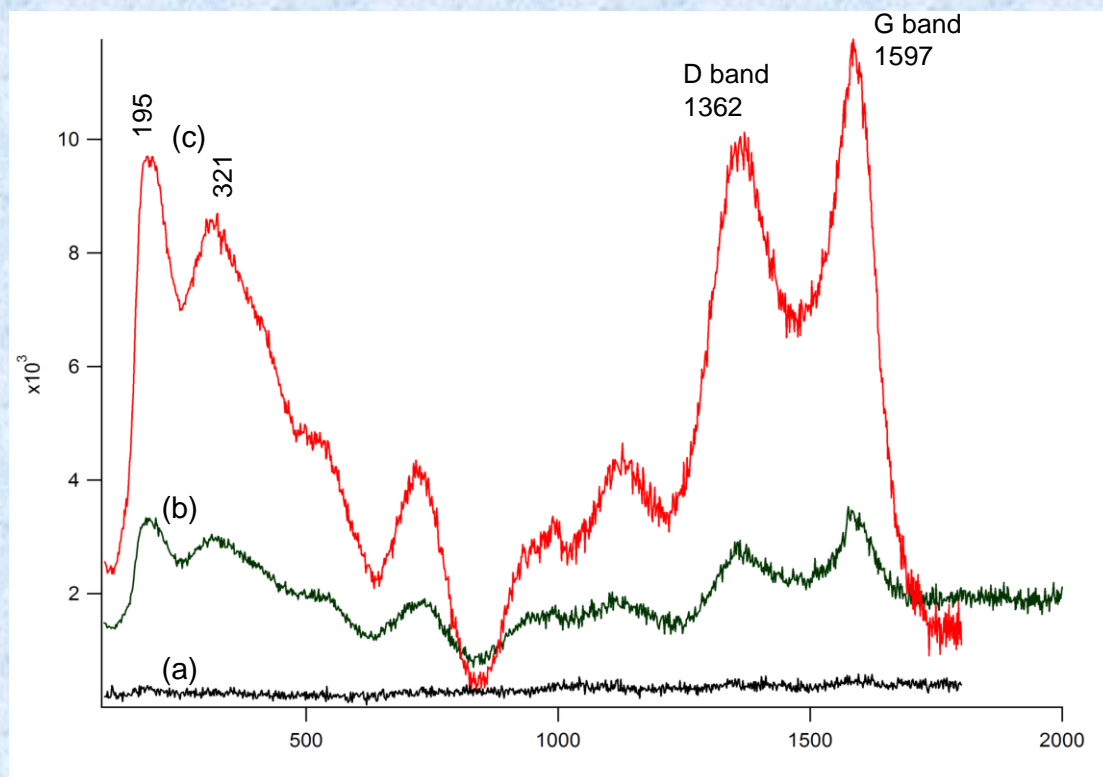
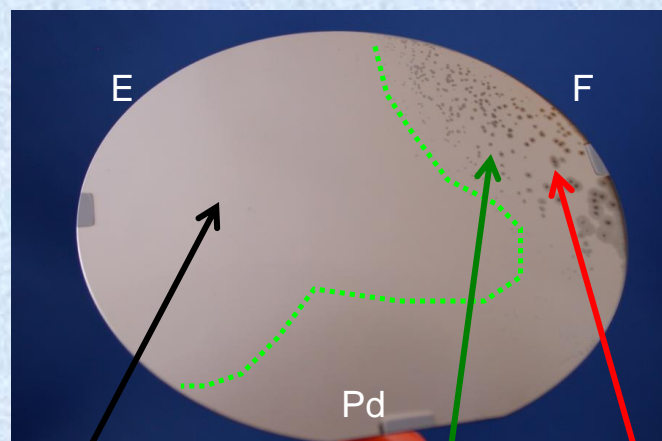


Entire surface affected by coal gas  
No shiny area visible



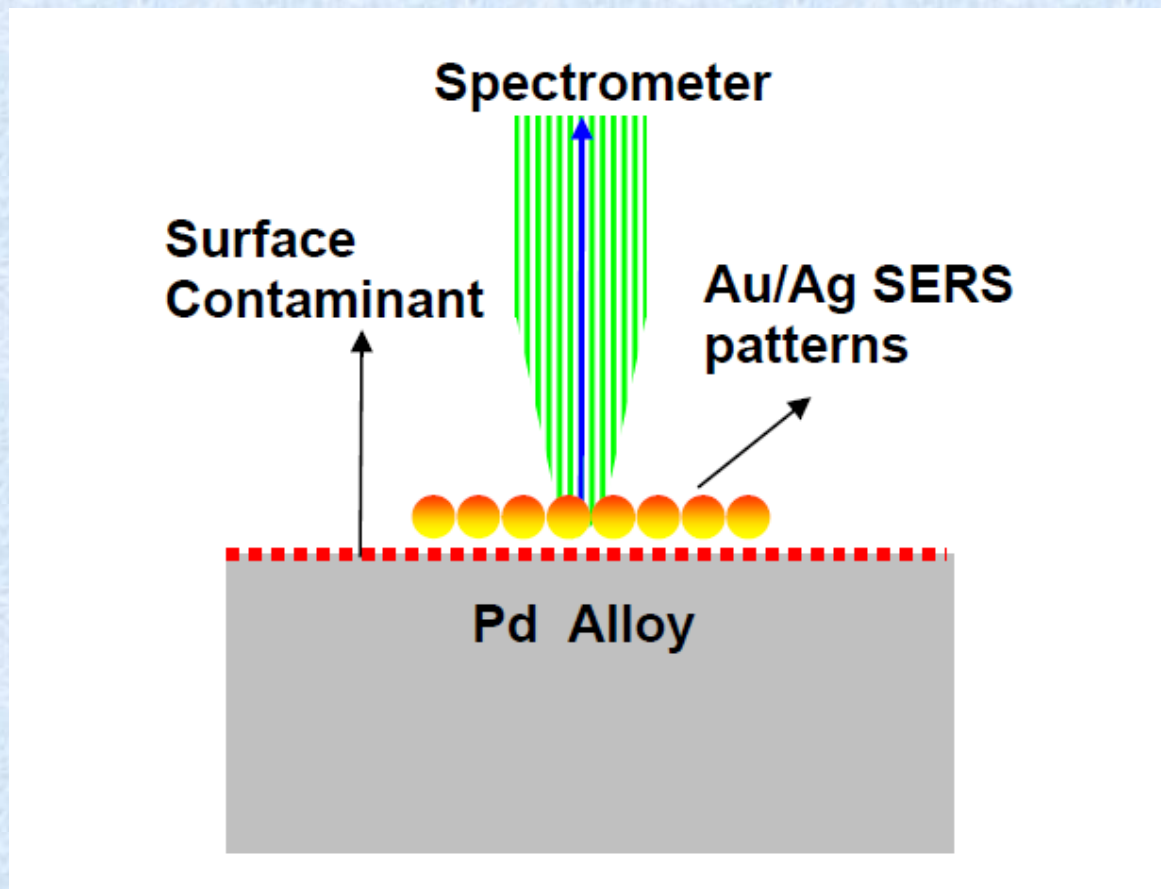
# Raman Microscopy as High Throughput Screening Tool: A Example

Spread Pd-E-F: Coal Gas Exposure



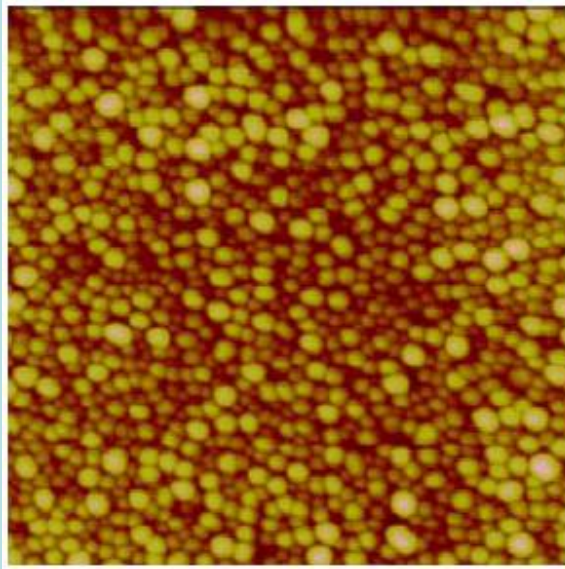
Shiny Spot    Between Black Spots    Black Spot

## Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS) By Nano Particles Coating

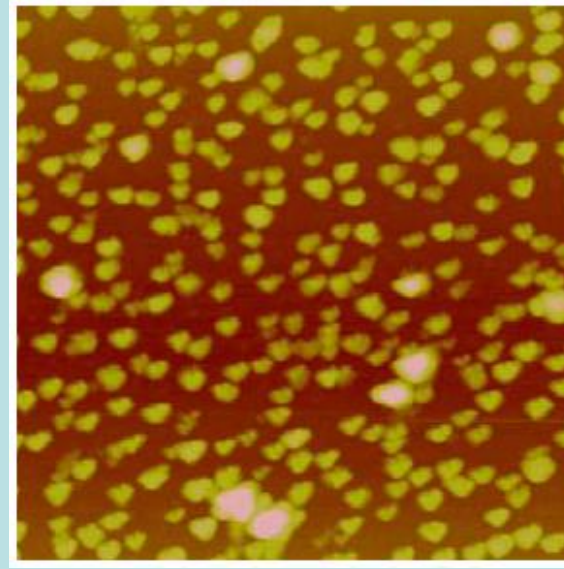


# Nano Silver Particles Coating: AFM Images

Coating by Sputtering



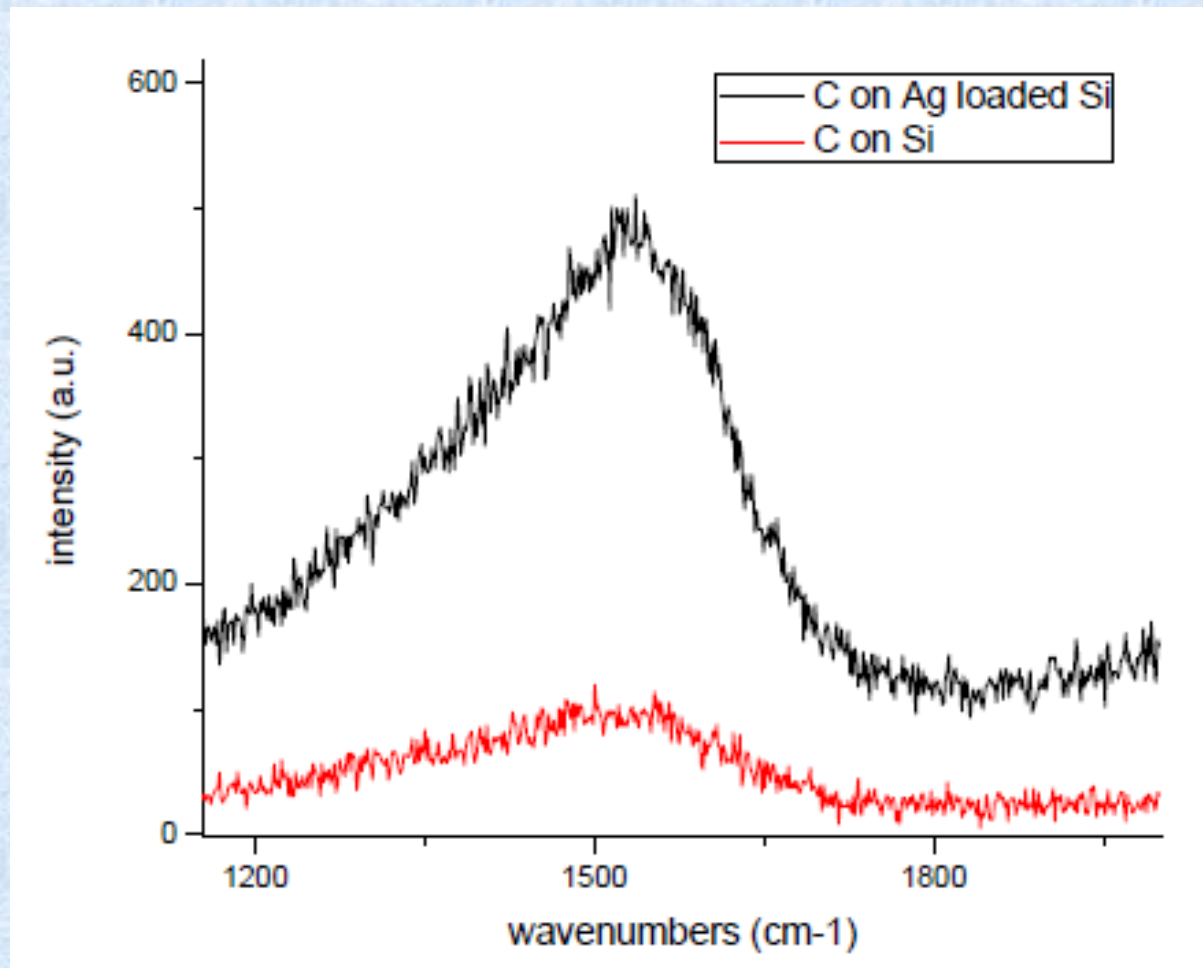
Coating by Colloid



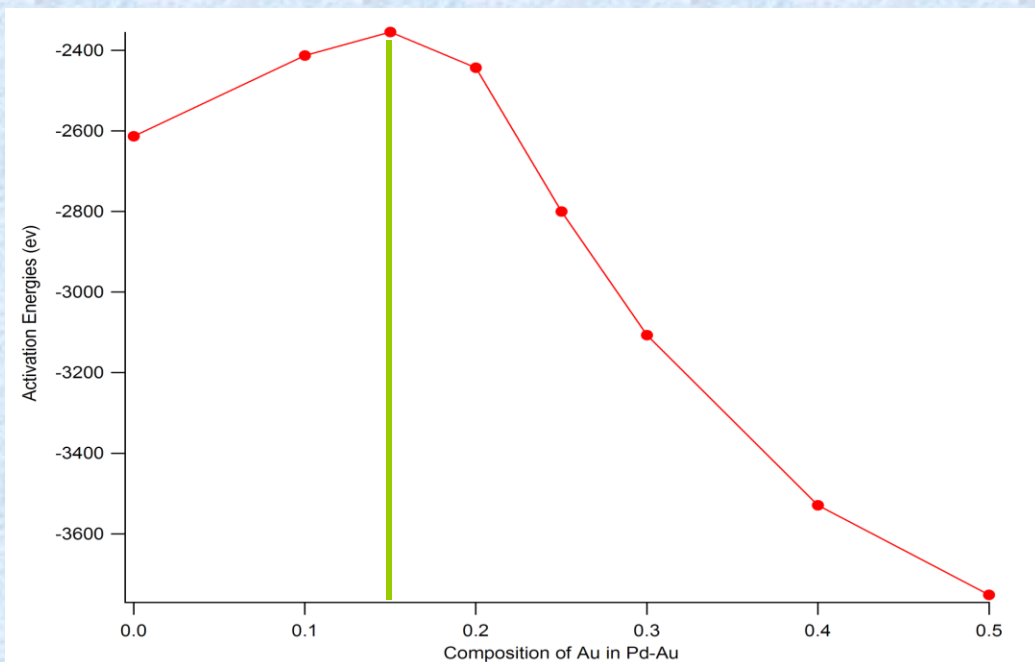
- Silver coating by sputtering is quite similar to one by colloid spinning process
- Sputtering deposition is clean process without need to post-coating treatment, which may modify surface of sample



## Carbon as Probe



Au 15atm% minimum activation energy for H<sub>2</sub> transport at 293K\*



## Approach

DFT calculations (VASP code) for predictions of the energies of H inside bulks of pure Pd and Au, and Pd-Au with 75%Pd-25%Au and 50%Pd-50%Au.

Monte Carlo Simulations for predictions of the diffusion rates of H inside bulks of pure Pd and Pd-Au with different composition.

\* The calculations are in agreement with experimental results in literature

# Third Year Plans

**Task 4.0** Construct and test foils and 15 cm<sup>2</sup> active surface area prototypes of candidate palladium alloys

**Task 5.0** Scale up active surface area of membrane from 15 to 75 cm<sup>2</sup>

**Task 6.0** Construct a working membrane module capable of extended service as a hydrogen separation system under coal gasifier conditions

**Task 7.0** Provide complete analysis of relevant data sufficient to permit economic evaluation of the process